

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 5, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Amendment, claims 3-5 and 8-9 have been canceled. Claims 6, 10, 18 and 19 have been amended. New claims 22-25 have been added. Applicants submit that the new claims as well as the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 6-7, 10-12 and 14-25 are pending in the present application with claims 6-7, 10-12, 14-19 and 22-25 respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 20 and 21 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-7, 10-12 and 19 of the present application.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claim 5 and the intervening claims 3 and 4. Therefore, claim 18 is allowable.

Claim 10 has been amended to be in independent form including all the limitations recited in base claim 18 and intervening claims 8 and 9. Therefore, claim 10 is allowable.

Claim Objections

Claims 18-19 were objected to because the recitation of "the input signals", "output signals" in lines 3 of claims 18 and 19 lacks proper antecedent basis. These claims have

been amended to obviate the claim objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 3-4, 8-9, 14-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 3-4, 8-9, 14-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,162). Claims 3-4 and 8-9 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claims 14-16 depend from allowable claim 18, and therefore are also allowable.

Rejection of Claims 3-4, 8-9 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3-4, 8-9 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Volk (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0122593). Claims 3-4 and 8-9 have been canceled, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claims 14-17 depend from allowable claim 18, and therefore are also allowable.

New Claims 22-25

Each of new claims 22-25 depends from allowable claim 10, and is therefore allowable as well.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that claims 6-7, 10-12, 14-19 and 22-25 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 100021-00135.**

Respectfully submitted,



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